

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

5 a two-housing assembly including a first housing (11) having a plurality of first spaced apart non-threaded openings, and including a second housing (12) having a plurality of second spaced apart threaded openings registerable with the plurality of first spaced apart non-threaded openings; and

10 means for holding the first housing (11) and the second housing (12) in a desired spaced-apart relation including a plurality of adjustment screws (21) each having a shoulder portion (21a) and each passing through one of the plurality of first spaced-apart openings and threadably passing into one of the second spaced apart threaded openings in the second housing so as to have the shoulder portion (21a) disposed  
15 between the first housing (11) and the second housing (12) and so preventing movement of the first housing (11) toward the second housing (12) closer than a desired spacing.

20 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for holding the first housing (11) and the second housing (12) in a desired spaced-apart relation also includes a plurality of lock nuts (22) each threadably engaging a respective adjustment screw (21) so as to lock the adjustment screw against screwing into or  
25 screwing out of the first housing when tightened until it abuts the second housing (12).

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first housing (11) has a flange and has a recess in the flange for the shoulder portion (21a) of each adjustment screw (21) suitable for accommodating all or part of the shoulder portion (21a) of the adjustment  
30 screw (21).

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a portion of a pump having an impeller, and the spaced apart relation corresponds to a spacing between the impeller and a suction housing.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shoulder portion (21a) is formed as part of the attachment screw (21) or is provided as a separate washer or nut fixed in place on the attachment screw (21).

10 6. A method for holding a first housing (11) and a second housing (12) in a desired spaced-apart relation, comprising:

a step (31) of threading to a desired depth in a second housing (12) a plurality of adjustment screws (21) through a respective one of a plurality of threaded openings in the second housing (12); and

15 a step (32) of pushing the first housing (11) onto the plurality of adjustment screws (21) so as to have each adjustment screw (21) pass through a respective non-threaded opening in the first housing (11) until a shoulder portion (21a) of each adjustment screw (21) prevents further progress  
20 of the first housing (11) onto the adjustment screw (21).

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising a step (33) of threading a plurality of lock nuts (22) onto a respective one of the plurality of adjustment screws (21) so as to lock the adjustment screw (21) against screwing into or screwing out of  
25 the second housing (12) when the lock nut (22) is tightened up to the point where it abuts the first housing (11).

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising a step (34) of loosening the lock nuts (22), and screwing or unscrewing the attachment screws (21) to a new desired depth in the second  
30 housing (12), and then re-tightening the lock nuts (22).